

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract as follows:

~~Thousands of patients prone to irregular and sometimes life-threatening heart rhythms have miniature~~ Miniature heart-monitoring devices, such as defibrillators and cardioverters, are implanted in ~~their chests. humans to~~ These devices detect and correct onset of abnormal heart rhythms ~~and automatically apply one or more shocks to their hearts. When properly sized and timed, the shocks restore normal heart function without human intervention. A critical part of these devices is the monitoring~~ Monitoring circuitry, which includes a ~~microprocessor~~ Microprocessors and stored instructions, or algorithms, ~~that within these devices govern how the devices~~ they interpret and react to electrical signals indicative of abnormal heart rhythms. ~~Often, the algorithms are too simple or too complex. Algorithms that are too simple lead to unnecessary shocking of the heart, while those that are too complex consume considerable battery power. Accordingly, the inventor devised a relatively simple and yet accurate algorithm for determining appropriate therapy options. One version of the algorithm computes three statistics --- a range statistic, a minimum interval statistic, and a dispersion index--- from a set of depolarization intervals. This algorithm defines the range statistic as the difference between largest and smallest depolarization intervals, the minimum interval as the smallest of the intervals, and the dispersion index as the standard deviation of the intervals. A scalar interval dispersion assessment, based on the three statistics, is then compared to a threshold to identify a rhythm as a flutter or fibrillation. The three statistics can also define a point in a three-dimensional space, with rhythm identification based on relative position of the point and a surface in the space.~~

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Serial Number: Unknown

Filing Date: Herewith

Title: THERAPY-SELECTION METHODS FOR IMPLANTABLE HEART MONITORS

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Docket No: 279.127US3

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 349-9593 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully Submitted,

MILTON M. MORRIS

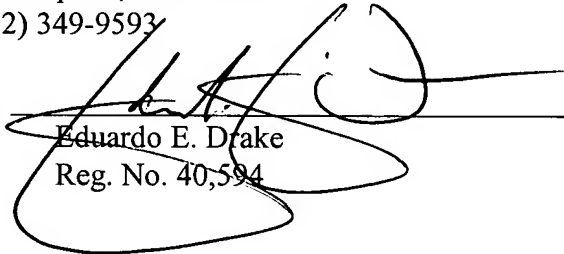
By his Representatives,

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